

Mr Chairman I rise in support of Mr. Culberson's amendment and I very much appreciate Chairman Regula's willingness to accept it.

What angers the American people is that we have laws dealing with illegal immigration that have not been honored. They have not been enforced. And people need a reminder of what those laws are. We need to restate it; we need to enforce it.

The American people do not want people thumbing their nose at the law. It undercuts the very fabric of our society and the system of civil justice and of criminal justice as well.

I realize that some of the people on the other side of the aisle do not like this law. Nevertheless, it IS the law. If they want to try to repeal it, they should try to repeal it. But as long as it is on the books -- as I believe it should be on the books -- we need to be honoring it; we need to be enforcing it. And doing so by restating in this bill is certainly a proper way of issuing a reminder.

My state is one of those affected. I think it's awful that the state of Oklahoma a couple of years ago passed this law to give the same tuition to illegals as they do to people who are residents of Oklahoma.

I think it's wrong. It's unjust. It's not equal treatment.

Q from another member: If this is a federal law, would this be an unfunded mandate by the federal government?

I can't see how it's an unfunded mandate when you say you don't give away in-state-tuition.

It's not an unfunded mandate because it doesn't involve their funding. Actually, you're saving them money through this. So it certainly is not an unfunded mandate.

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The amendment passed by a vote of 40-21 in committee.